

The Jagan Era Has Not Ended

by Prem Misir, Ph.D

An important focus of the Jagan ideological framework has been the redistribution of income and wealth to reduce the culture of poverty in Guyana, and indeed the Third World. The Jagan ideology attempts to inject humanity into a world obsessed with the pursuit of profit and rapid capital accumulation, culminating in international conflicts. This is the hallmark of the Jagan legacy, a legacy that strives to operate capitalism with a human face. Clearly, this legacy will be a driving force in the new Administration, making sure that the Jagan era has not ended.

With reference to international conflicts, President Janet Jagan, speaking at the 53rd UN General Assembly in 1998, explained that peacekeeping is inadequate in itself to resolve conflicts. There is need to apply preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, and peace-building to assess the determinants of these conflicts. But, she argued, that this perspective of not focusing solely on peacekeeping as a way to resolve world conflicts, can also be used within each

country.

Peace-building is not only associated with the military and the police, as some people seem to have a perennial obsession with the militarized role of the security forces. As Janet Jagan pointed out, peace is not just the absence of war. She added that true peace becomes a reality when it is founded on sound economic and social development. The use of peace-building and peace-making to produce enterprising long-term outcomes for Guyana, therefore, is promised on improving the quality of life of all Guyanese. But she believes that for developing countries, the most important barrier to this peace is poverty. The President, at that time, called on the UN to reduce worldwide poverty by 50% by the year 2015. Enormous assistance would be required from the advanced nations, and they should have a vested interest in decreasing poverty, as poor countries are significant markets for their exports. Consider the fact that about 40% of the net income of traditional US corporations is derived from Third World countries.

It may be useful to add

that under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the capacity of governments to control business and their economies, will be con-



Janet Jagan

ceded to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and transnational corporations. GATT in setting up the WTO in 1995, was not so much concerned with regulating trade, as to place individual governments under the control of private capital without a human face. The 120 countries that are signatories to GATT must reduce tariffs, stop farm subsidies, treat foreign corporations as the

same as the local corporations, comply with all corporate patent claims, and heed the decisions of the WTO which has the authority to enforce these

agreements through trade sanctions. The provisions in the GATT agreement in establishing the WTO needs re-examination against a background of high levels of poverty in developing countries sustaining democracy, especially for those countries where it's fragile, becomes problematic if the GATT agreement is not reconsidered and reconfigured for the poor nations. In effect, the GATT agreement is administered with minimum

and South. Establishment of a **New Global Human Order** requires a level of international corporation and reorientation of ideological thrusts that have never before been seen. Most advanced industrial nations are solely motivated by the pursuit of profit and rapid capital accumulation. But amid this ferocious capitalist aggression, a **New Global Human Order**, however, may still have some feasibility potential in reducing poverty in poor societies, and thereby giving capitalism a human face.

In any case, foreign investment needs to be controlled and administered to create interdependence rather than dependence. A **New Global Human Order** breeds interdependence among nations. In this modern complex world of today, the rich and poor countries have more gains to be exacted from interdependence. The logistics of how this could emerge need to be calculated. This perspective involves promotive interdependence where a person's goal attainment mutually assists the other person's goal achievement.

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human capitalism, as capitalism promotes profit-making and exploitation to the detriment of the disadvantaged. Dr Cheddi Jagan's global proposal should not be discarded. The best days ahead for it has to be in Guyana, and indeed, the Caribbean.

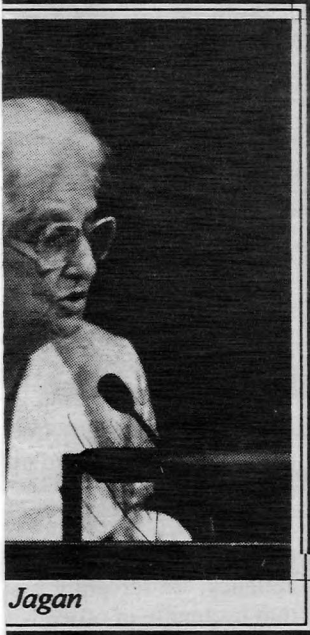
A **New Global Human Order** would become more of a reality in an economic system driven by a mix between capitalist and interventionist principle, rather than be solely applied within a capitalist economic system. This mix is a scarce on the international scene. Therefore, a useful starting point for activating a **New Global Human Order** concept, has to be initially rooted nationally. Guyana can be the cradle for this experiment. Dr Cheddi Jagan was an advocate for a mixed capitalist and interventionist economic system.

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and South. Establishment of a **New Global Human Order** requires a level of international corporation and reorientation of ideological thrusts that have never before been seen. Most advanced industrial nations are solely motivated by the pursuit of profit and rapid capital accumulation. But amid this ferocious capitalist aggression, a **New Global Human Order**, however, may still have some feasibility potential in reducing poverty in poor societies, and thereby giving capitalism a human face.

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The whole concept of Dr Cheddi Jagan's global vision requires its lifeblood from government spending, that is, from both poor and rich governments. Today, the international economic climate is geared to reduced government interventions and, therefore, spending. Also, the moral outlook of Jagan's **New Global Human Order** is completely opposed to the core of in-

human capitalism, as capitalism promotes profit-making and exploitation to the detriment of the disadvantaged. Dr Cheddi Jagan's global proposal should not be discarded. The best days ahead for it has to be in Guyana, and indeed, the Caribbean.

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Undoubtedly, President Bharrat Jagdeo's Administration will vigorously pursue the creation of this new Order. In this way, the PPP/Civic government will continue to carry the torch that can illuminate the process of establishing a **New Global Human Order**, and eliminate the culture of poverty wherever it exists.